

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: None of the prior art of record alone or in combination teaches or renders obvious the limitations of claims 1 and 20. Specifically, claims 1 and 20 recite require the elastic interconnecting material be "a single layer of light polymerizable elastic interconnecting material... filling the entire layer defining space between the inner contour of the over structure and the outer contour of the base structure". As noted in Applicant's remarks dated 9 March 2009, prior art to Braiman fails to explicitly teach a "light polymerizable" interconnecting material. While the coupling element of Fisher has only one layer of light polymerizable material (i.e., intermediate layer, 21), this layer does not fill the entire layer defining space between the over structure and base structure as claimed. Because of the inclusion of the transitional phrase "consisting of" and "consisting of the steps of" in the independent claims, the required additional saline layer of Fisher renders the claims unobvious. The subject matter of dependent claims 2-6, 9-11, 14, 16-17, 21-22, and 26 are also allowable for the above reasons which are incorporated through dependency from claims 1 and 20. All in combination with the elements set forth in the claims.
2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL R. BALLINGER whose telephone number is (571)270-5567. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30 A.M to 5:00 P.M. EST.

4. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cris Rodriguez can be reached on (571)272-4964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

5. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael R Ballinger/
Examiner, Art Unit 3732

/Cris L. Rodriguez/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3732